

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080369

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CE

SUBJECT: CEYLONese FOREIGN SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH
UNDER SECRETARY HABIB

1. CEYLONese FOREIGN AND DEFENSE SECRETARY JAYASINGHE
MET WITH UNDER SECRETARY HABIB APRIL 7 IN THE COURSE OF
HIS CURRENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON. SRI LANKA AMBASSADOR
KANAKARATNE AND NEA DEPUTY ASST. SECRETARY DUBS WERE
ALSO PRESENT. DISCUSSION COVERED INDO-SRI LANKA
RELATIONS, INDIAN OCEAN TALKS AT MOSCOW, AND OTHER
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SUBJECTS.

2. INDO.CEYLONese RELATIONS. JAYASINGHE NOTED THAT
THE DEFEAT OF THE GANDHI GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN TOTALLY
UNEXPECTED BY THE GSL AND THAT QTE THE IMMEDIATE IMPACT
IS NOT ALL THAT GOOD UNQTE. GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN
INDIA AND SRI LANKA ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE LATTER, HOWEVER,

AND JAYASINGHE NOTED THE CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL EXPERIENCE OF MOST JANATA LEADERS. JAYASINGHE EXPRESSED THE CEYLONESE HOPE FOR A STRONG CENTER IN NEW DELHI, STATING THAT TAMIL SEPARATISTS IN SRI LANKA HAVE TIES WITH SOUTH INDIAN TAMIL EXPANSIONISTS WHO DREAM OF A GREATER TAMIL BLOC SPANNING INDIA, SRI LANKA AND MALAYSIA.

SRI LANKA, HE ADDED, HAS NO QUARREL WITH NORTH INDIA; ONLY WITH THE SOUTH, AND A STRONG GOVERNMENT IN NEW DELHI IS NECESSARY TO KEEP THE TAMILS IN THE SOUTH IN CHECK.

3. INDIAN OCEAN. RESPONDING TO A QUERY FROM JAYASINGHE ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE MOSCOW TALKS ON THE INDIAN OCEAN MILITARY RESTRAINT ISSUE, HABIB STATED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD RAISED IT IN A VERY PRELIMINARY WAY TO SEE IF THE RUSSIANS WERE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO INITIATE TALKS AT THE WORKING LEVEL, PRIMARILY TO DISCUSS WHAT IS MEANT BY MUTUAL RESTRAINT. SUCH FURTHER TALKS WITH THE RUSSIANS, HOWEVER, WILL ONLY FOLLOW THE DETAILED REFINEMENT OF OUR POSTURE AND EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION WITH FRIENDS AND ALLIES ALSO INTERESTED IN THE INDIAN OCEAN ISSUE. ONLY AFTER OUR OWN PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN FORMULATED FOLLOWING THOSE CONSULTATIONS CAN WE PROCEED TO DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN A U.S.-SOVIET INDIAN OCEAN WORKING COMMITTEE.

4. HABIB STRESSED THAT NO TIMEFRAME EXISTED FOR THIS PROCESS ALTHOUGH HE JUDGED THAT WE WOULD FRAME OUR VIEWS IN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME AND THEN TALK TO THE SOVIETS. CONFIDENTIAL

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HABIB STATED THAT THE US WILL MAKE CLEAR THAT UNDER NO CONDITION WILL THERE BE A UNILATERAL U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE SOVIETS, HE NOTED, WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE U.S. OUT OF DIEGO GARCIA WHILE REMAINING IN BERBERA. IF THEY ARE NOT WILLING TO ACCEPT THAT THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE THERE CAN BE NO BASIS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION. INDEED, OTHER PRESENCES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN WILL ALSO HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED, AS WELL AS SUCH QUESTIONS AS DEFINING THE INDIAN OCEAN, THE SCOPE AND TYPES OF MILITARY FORCES AND OTHER KINDS OF MILITARY PRESENCES, ETC.

5. HABIB NOTED THAT THE U.S. AND USSR ARE AT THE VERY BEGINNING OF A PROCESS BUT TOLD JAYASINGHE THAT IT APPEARED CONSISTENT WITH SRI LANKA'S CONCEPT OF AN INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE EVEN IF IT DID NOT ACCEPT THE IOPZ POSITION. JAYASINGHE AGREED AND REITERATED GSL SUPPORT FOR DIRECT U.S.-SOVIET TALKS AIMED AT REDUCING INDIAN OCEAN MILITARY PRESENCES. VANCE

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